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In the final chapter the text presents a variety of very interesting topics such as gateways from existing mail communities to X.400, standardized programming APIs and work in progress with the standards organizations.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this reviewer is "middle of the road" on the book *Electronic Mail*. For a specific audience, those wanting to learn about the X.400 standards, this book will be of great value. Unfortunately, for the reader not focused on X.400, the text falls short of providing enough valuable information outside the realm of X.400.

—Chris Moore, *General Magic*

Computing Across America: The Bicycle Odyssey of a High-Tech Nomad, by Steven K. Roberts, Learned Information, Inc. (Medford, NJ: 1988), 347 pp., ISBN 0-938734-18-0.

Normally, we don't review books that are four years old, but the marketing on the book *Computing Across America* was so bad that we're only just now learning of its existence. The author of this unusual book is Steve Roberts, aka "The Guy with the Bike."

The bike

You know, the bike you read about in *USA Today* and saw at INTER-OP 92 Spring or on *The Phil Donahue Show*. That's right, the 580-pound, multiprocessing, multi-functional contraption that contains more computer equipment than your average Novell dealer. (For a detailed description of the bike, see "The Guy With the Bike," in *ConneXions*, Volume 6, No. 8, August 1992).

Ever wonder how something this evolved ever got started? *Computing Across America* is Steve Robert's narrative of how he quit his life in suburban Ohio, sold everything and hit the road. A change in lifestyle is certainly nice every now and again, but why, you might ask, a recumbent bicycle with a head mouse?

In 1983, in a moment of suburban mid-life angst, Steve Roberts asked himself what he liked most in life. Bicycles, computers, and women led the list. Mowing the lawn and sitting in cubicles weren't on the list.

Evolution

The natural answer was to get a recumbent bicycle, buy one of the new laptops, and pedal 10,000 miles looking for coeds. In this fascinating book, we see Roberts go through an evolution, learning how to lead his life the way he wants.

Technically, Roberts also evolves, taking the concept of the laptop computer on a bicycle and extending it to a solar-powered Winnebiko, an example of engineering at its best. Today, the Winnebiko has undergone another metamorphosis and has become the BEHEMOTH (*Big Electronic Human-Energized Machine...Only Too Heavy*).

Big hit

Computing Across America tells you how this manic pedal person got started. Roberts is now hard at work on a new book, to be published by Doubleday and if the humorous and elegant writing style of *Computing Across America* holds, the new book will be a big hit.

—Carl Malamud